# Lancaster County

1.  **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
    - Healthier, happier, hope
    - Easier time for economic development
    - Saves time
    - Less crime, drug, teen pregnancies
    - Democracy works better
    - Breeds a cycle of success
    - Long term savings
    - Opportunity
    - Means everything
    - Think of the reverse – poor education puts drain on the economy and channels money to service type programs instead of enhancement programs
    - Preparation of young people to be successful
    - High school graduates ready to enter workforce or higher education
    - Better education adds value to each child

2.  **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
    - Elevate the floor and level the opportunity for all
    - More college-education (cycle)
    - More role models
    - Stabilize funding for all levels
    - Strategies for different students groups in the "middle"
    - Increase computer technical education
    - Give people the ability to adapt easier to change – closing of mills and move to higher skills jobs
    - Additional funding to attract quality teachers
    - Parent education needed– pair students w/parents in the classroom so both can see the value of education

    **Strengths:**
    - Community works together
    - Business partnerships/foundations
    - After school
    - CIS
    - Good relations
    - First steps
    - Parents for public schools
    - College campuses
    - School board
    - Small project (sororities, etc can we link together?)
    - Interagency collaboration
    - Arts!
    - Recreation department
    - Facilities
    - An ethic to care for all children

**Challenges:**
- Funding for smaller class sizes
- Technology
- Facilities
- Copier paper
- The value of education is different among different communities. If you cook hamburgers at McDonalds, your value will be different than a doctor's, lawyers etc
- Motivation to achieve – model success – reason to succeed
- Quality of standards questioned – no need to compare nationally
- Requiring testing for non-English speaking and special needs students – need assistance
- There are support programs in the community but they are not reaching the students who need them the most - need a graph to show interrelationships among services for children in the community and understand the gaps

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
- Supportive community programs – foundations, civic organizations, business
- School board puts children first
- SCHOLARS program – home-school connection program
- Quality superintendent
- PTAs, PTOs, SICs
- Mentors
- Church support
- USC-Lancaster
- After school programs

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
- Need to understand and embrace cultural changes and differences in our communities
- Parents need to see that no knowledge and skills = no jobs
- Schools need to better understand family lives and vice versa – working parents and the time they have to give to schools and their home situations
- Tactical – find the gaps, identify the fill (fierce grandmothers)
- Move all elected officials to support achievement
- Provide leadership, time, talent, treasure
- Move voters to rally behind cause for public education
- Become advocates for public education
- See education as cradle to grave process